

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 /063 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:RBENTLEY:RCS & TWSOANDRES

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ARA/PAF: MS. MARSHALL (SUB)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 259534

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, VE, PN

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S CHARGE THAT U.S.
TROOPS TRAINING FOR WAR WITH PANAMA

REF: CARACAS 11360

1. EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE USED BY
DEPT. SPOKESMAN TO ANSWER QUERY RE THE ROWAN ARTICLE
(REFTEL):

BEGIN QUOTE: Q. ANY COMMENT ON REPORTED STATEMENT BY
PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA THAT THE UNITED STATES IS MOVING
CRACK TROOPS INTO THE CANAL ZONE AND IS "TRAINING THEM
FOR WAR AGAINST THE PANAMANIANIS?"

A. I STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT
PREPARING FOR WAR AGAINST PANAMA. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT
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THE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A MODERNIZED TREATY RELATIONSHIP

WITH PANAMA ARE GOING FORWARD IN GOOD FAITH ON BOTH SIDES,
AND WE ANTICIPATE NO OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE OR TROUBLE DURING
THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

(FYI: THE TRAINING EXERCISE TO WHICH REFERENCE IS AP-
ARENTLY MADE INVOLVED TWO COMPANIES OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE.
THEY ARRIVED IN PANAMA 12 OCTOBER AND ARE DUE TO LEAVE
SHORTLY. PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS WERE
INVITED AND DID ATTEND SOME OF THE TRAINING EXERCISES.)
END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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